

WHAT THE LEAGUE IS --- WHERE IT IS --- ITS PURPOSE, GOALS AND PROGRAMS

THE URBAN LEAGUE IS A SOCIAL SERVICE ORIENTED ORGANIZATION

NATIONAL BACKGROUND

In 1910 several small agencies in New York banded together to form the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes to improve social and economic conditions of Black citizens through interracial teamwork. Initially the League sought jobs and better housing for Black migrants from the South who had come North looking for work.

From that beginning it has grown, reached out, changed its goals to meet changing social conditions and is now the National Urban League, Inc., a non-profit, non-partisan organization with one hundred affiliates across the country. Its goal today is helping America's minority citizens gain the better economic opportunities which when realized--will create a social atmosphere in which men and women can turn their potential into accomplishment.

LOCAL HISTORY

January 9, 1917, the NEWARK EVENING NEWS reported in part: "With cooperation of whites and blacks for the social uplift of the latter in Newark and vicinity as the keynote, the preliminary organization meeting of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was held yesterday afternoon in the Board of Trade rooms. A Board of managers was elected and three temporary officers were chosen to act until a permanent selection is made."

January 23, 1917, the NEWARK EVENING NEWS reported: "By the adoption of by-laws and the election of officers the organization of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was effected yesterday afternoon at the Board of Trade rooms."

The purpose of that organization was "to carry on welfare work for Negroes and to improve their social, economic and moral condition in urban communities throughout the State."

The first officers were: President, Mr. Augustus V. Hamburg; Vice President, Rev. Ora M. Bonfield, Newark; Second Vice President, Dr. George E. Cannon, Jersey City; Secretary, Rev. John D. Bolden, Newark; Treasurer, Mr. Arthur W. McDougal, Newark. Membership was on a statewide basis.

On April 11, 1917, a Certificate of Affiliation was issued to the New Jersey League by National Urban League.

November 8, 1917, Certificate of Incorporation of NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY was issued by the State of New Jersey.

The organization, to become more effective, confined its operation to the northeast section of the State. In keeping with this confinement a Certificate of Change of Name to NEW JERSEY URBAN LEAGUE, NEWARK BRANCH, was recorded July 7, 1924.

Further problems and the organization of another League in this section initiated further refinement of boundaries to the County of Essex. A Certificate of Change of Name to URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY was recorded on May 27, 1949.

The first Executive Director of the Urban League of Essex County was William M. Ashby, now a life member of ULEC.

In 1923 the Urban League of Essex County became a member of the United Community Fund.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Urban League of Essex County, serving the whole of the County, has its principal office at 508 Central Avenue, Newark. The Housing Department is located at 58 Jones Street, Newark, tel. (201) 623-1613.

WHO RUNS THE LEAGUE

The League is governed by an inter-racial policy making Board of Directors. Its operational activities are conducted by its paid Staff.

On March 17, 1971, the Board adopted its revised Constitution changing the titles of Executive Director to President of the League, and President of the Board to Chairman of the Board.

PURPOSE

The Urban League of Essex County is a charitable, tax exempt and educational Agency which works on problems and opportunities in the established fields of employment and training, education, health, housing and welfare, as well as those other special social areas where the League considers itself uniquely effective.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

In keeping with the Purpose as set down by the Board, the League's objectives are:

1. To see that equalization of life is achieved between white, black and Spanish speaking people in Essex County.

2. To improve race relations and to work for full and complete integration of all minorities into the American society.

3. To influence community planning through cooperative relationships and constructive coalitions.

4. To build the internal strength of the ghetto and provide motivation and self development.

To accomplish the League's objectives the Staff's basic mission is going where the problems are. We work on institutional reform in terms of problems to be solved rather than in terms of programs to be executed.

We cooperate with industry, labor and local governments in Essex County toward reaching common goals.

Our Board and Staff move through: (a) local task forces; (b) committees; (c) formal and informal coalitions in the community; (d) councils and organizations--memberships; (e) block clubs and neighborhood associations.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

EDUCATION

Establish liaison with school administrators, counselors and teachers to develop better understanding of educational and vocational needs of minority youths to make the system more relevant to their needs;

Explore alternative means for making additional funds available at the local level for educational activities and institutions.

HEALTH

Work within the system and with already established groups for a better organized and better financed health service;

Increase resources for recruiting and training health manpower;

Educate the community on diseases and preventive measures.

HOUSING

Act as an information and counseling service as well as a clearing house for integrating communities;

Assist and aid individuals and groups in organization and formation of tenant associations;

Work closely with the non-profit Urban Housing and Development Corporation, which was founded by the Urban League of Essex County, on rehabilitation and new construction--to add to the actual supply of safe, sound, and decent housing for low and moderate income families.

WELFARE

To assist residents of Essex County with welfare problems and develop programs to assist the working poor;

To open a Welfare Information and Assistance Center in Essex County.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Continue employment recruitment, expand Skills Bank operation and develop on-the-job training programs;

Work for change through labor leaders and government officials for sound hiring practices with great attention on the problems of apprenticeship and journeymen opportunities;

Working with all existing agencies in manpower area and assisting Black contractors in bids for federal and private contracts.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bring to public attention through appropriate media significant facts, opinions and interpretations which will serve to keep the public aware of League policies and actions;

Prepare, collect, review, analyze all published documents of the League as well as analyze all information on changing attitudes towards the League.

Set up public appearances for Staff and/or Board.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNSELING

Program for getting people together to plan social improvements for the everyday life experiences of their families in their communities;

Established in 1965, this program was initially the brainchild of three national organizations: The Family Association of America, the National Urban League and the Child Study Association of America. In Newark, the Family Service Bureau and the Urban League of Essex County are joint sponsors.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

This particular program began with funds from National Urban League as the ERCOT Program (Eastern Region Community Organizers Training Program) to:

Establish better working relationships between community agencies and organizations to focus on urban problems which affect the non-professional and the working poor population;

Institute programs which will lead to institutional systematic change.

The main thrust of the ERCOT Program was the Martland Hospital Project which resulted in:

Organization of non-professional hospital workers;

Initiation of career ladder training programs for upgrading of workers;

Formation of the Direct Action Committee of Hospital Workers within the hospital to deal with problems;

Organization of a Coalition of Community Organizations;

Formation of a Board of Concerned Citizens for the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry.

CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

World of work orientation training program;

Visibility and grass roots contacts;

The Urban League of Essex County is the contractor for this portion of the TEAM program.

THE PRESIDENT

Earl Phillips is a dynamic, fast moving young leader with a zeal, for the work he is doing, which knows no limits or bounds. His goals have been set--the people must be served--and those caught in the vortex of his dedication must respond in a like manner. He spends many long and lonely hours in his quest for bigger and better things for the League and the community it serves. He is deeply involved and committed in many areas for he knows it takes the united efforts of all to win this struggle for survival. Through him...

Our United Community Fund allocation was increased from \$85,000.00 last year to \$100,000.00 this year (although this fell short of the President's request)..

We have received grants from... The Wallace Eljabar Foundation...The Schumann Foundation...The Lillia Babbitt Hyde Foundation...Anheuser-Busch...and--he has set up a funding source with the business community.... (The Victoria Foundation and National Urban League have continued to be our mainstay)....

He also secured the services of an Executive Vice President, Andrew Byers, (mobility loan from the Port Authority) ...however, this service ended October 24 and this item will now appear on the budget.

THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

J. Earl Young, recently appointed, is still getting his feet wet. He is the programmer and has to iron out all the kinks before the program or proposal is presented to the President. It is his task to keep the staff soothed and calm while the "other Earl" leaves all of us exhausted in the wake of his perpetual motion. His job is the hardest, most taxing one in the Agency--(trying to please Staff and the President. We see, however, a refreshing firmness which we hope will remain.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING DIRECTOR

Thomas Mann, in his quiet way, is getting results with job referrals. He has also developed an Employment Committee comprising Employment Directors and Personnel Managers of some 27 companies in the Essex County Area to assist in solving unemployment problems.

His Employment Specialist, Ronald Wilburn, knows the inspiration of working with our busiest Board Member, Mrs. Lucye Lee. With her help, the Department launched a secretarial training program on October 5.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

Mrs. Juliet Grant and Mrs. Barbara McCall are the backbone of the League's contact with the community. It was the work of these two organizers which brought about some changes at Martland Hospital.

Juliet had charge of the summer Youth For Hire Program which provided jobs for 40 teenage youths, placing them in various social and community agencies. The President now has her on a follow-through program with the families of each youth hired.

Barbara was the coordinator of the Black Student Summer Program, funded by National Urban League, which brought in five college students to work with a community project.

Since we are presently without the services of an Education and a Welfare Director, both are involved in work affecting those Departments.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNSELING

Miss Alice Garner is the Director of this program for the Urban League.

Alice is busy organizing Neighborhood Counseling Discussion Groups throughout the City of Newark with special emphasis on areas of low income.

She also coordinated the Governor's Youth Program for our League...lining up boys to spend a week at the National Guard Camp in Sea Girt (free)...now establishing a program to follow through with the families of those boys.

We have a third community organizer in Alice's Department, Mrs. Louise Livingston, who is very adept at setting up block associations and establishing "tot lots" (Bergen & Madison)...they set up voter registration at the League...are very busy with Title I Advisory Councils...The Clinton Hill Area Rehabilitation Corporation...Women in Community Service...and other civic and community organizations.

HEALTH DIRECTOR

Miss A. Sue Brown has witnessed the signing of a contract between Model Cities Program of Newark and the Urban League, supporting her proposal for the development and implementation of a City Wide Health Information, Referral and Education Center to be located at 58 Jones Street. Although the President has signed the contract and people have been hired, the date of opening still rests with the "green light signal" from Model Cities.

Sue's program will counsel persons with unmet health needs on where and how they can find help for dealing with their problems...discover gaps or duplications in community services to provide better organizational program planning...develop a central loan closet file...provide comprehensive health information on varied subjects, problems and diseases...improve community awareness of health problems and prevention through education and counseling.

She currently has a Teenage Preventive Venereal Disease Program in operation, located at 195 First Street and coordinated by Michael Honore. It is run by teenagers--the group is available for lectures.

Sue is also a member of the State Comprehensive Health Planning Council and the U. S. Region 2 Health Advisory Committee.

HOUSING

Addison M. McLeon's Housing Department is one of the few Credit & Housing Counseling Agencies in the State of New Jersey, approved by the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, for home ownership counseling for the poor and disadvantaged.

Mac will give full counsel and assistance to needy families in search of appropriate housing...has received many commendations from senior citizens and tenant associations for his help to them...and is working with the Urban Housing and Development Corporation in its rehabilitation program. Seven units have already been acquired and work has begun.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We hope this (our first) NEWSLETTER will give you more information about the work of the Urban League of Essex County and that you will give us your support. No one is barred from working with the League. There are many ways one can help: by taking a membership or making a contribution; volunteering your time and talents; working as a lay person on the Task Force of one of our committees.

We have been engaged in varied duties, from supporting the New York Urban League in the sale of football tickets (as a service to our constituents)--to taking Board minutes.

Presently we are engaged in setting up a coalition of suburban women as volunteers for the League and in lining up interesting interviews which are taped in our Urban League office for broadcast on WWDJ's program "IN BLACK AMERICA".... if interested, call us.

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From all of us to each of you ---

HAVE A HAPPY AND INSPIRING THANKSGIVING

Clarissa Chapin,
Director Public Affairs